

REVIEW

A Hand List of the Birds of New South Wales — A. R. McGill. Published by the Fauna Protection Panel, 121 Macquarie Street, Sydney, 1960.

Published by the Panel primarily as a reference for conservationists on the occurrence and habitats of N.S.W. birds, this is, the Foreword states, the first such list. Just over 500 species are listed, which is approximately three-quarters of the species recorded from Australia. This figure emphasises the very wide variety of habitats in N.S.W., which has encouraged a high degree of speciation within many bird groups. Over 100 species are also on the N.Z. list, while many more have either close or distant relatives in N.Z.

It is of interest to note the similarity of the N.Z. and N.S.W. lists of waders and other water-bird groups, the greater richness of oceanic birds on the N.Z. list, and the poverty of the land bird list in N.Z. The comparison emphasises the quite haphazard representation in N.Z. of the land-bird groups of eastern Australia, and the small degree of speciation that has occurred in N.Z.

This is not a mere list of names. With each species is given a brief but clear summary of its distribution and abundance in N.S.W., its characteristic habitat and its breeding range outside the state, whether in Australia or overseas. The classification and nomenclature used closely follow those of the N.Z. *Checklist*. This publication is an interesting and useful reference for anyone who views N.Z. birds in terms of their strong relationship to the birds of eastern Australia.

— B. D. H.

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NOTICES

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NOTORNIS, 1964

As the Editor is expecting to be overseas for most of 1964, contributions should be sent to Mr. B. D. Heather, Heretaunga College, Upper Hutt. On a former occasion when the Editor was away in 1957, Mr. Heather kindly acted in his place.

RARE VISITORS TO WESTLAND

Mr. P. Grant, 10 Hiatoa Road, Karoro, Greymouth, reports that Spur-winged Plovers and black birds, which may have been Rooks, have been seen in several places in Westland. He wishes to be informed of any further sightings and would also like conclusive evidence that the black birds are Rooks. The Australian Raven (*C. coronoides*) is a possible invader.

PERSONALIA

When Joyce Grenfell visited Auckland and Christchurch in the spring, local members welcomed the opportunity to take her bird-watching. Many species were co-operative, but there were no Tuis for Miss Grenfell.

Another distinguished visitor has been Joy Adamson, the author of "Born Free" and "Living Free."

OMISSION

The Editor regrets that the name of the contributor, C. J. Lindsay, was omitted at the foot of "Some Notes on the Birds of Norfolk Island" (*Notornis* X, 305).